

PATENT
APP NO 09/711,786

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application. Please amend the claims as listed below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring a factory automation product via a communications network, wherein the factory automation product includes identifiable information associated therewith, and the factory automation product is installed at an installation site having an installation site address, said method comprising the steps of:
 searching the communications network by a monitoring mechanism for the installation site address;
 obtaining the identifiable information; and
 associating the installation site address to the factory automation product based on the identifiable information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a MAC address assigned to the product.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a serial number.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a version number of the factory automation product.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a product number.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the installation site address is an IP

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address of the installation site.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product comprises a control device.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product comprises a software program.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product comprises a host computer.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of searching a further site address based on the IP address in order to determine whether the product is also used at the further site address.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of comparing the product used at the installation site address and the product used at the further site address with a sales file for determining whether said products are legal copies.
12. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of searching for an additional unit of the product based on the MAC address.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a user of the factory automation product is required to register the factory automation product over the communications network, and wherein the identifiable information is obtained through said registration.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a user of the factory automation product is required to register the factory automation product over the communications network, and wherein the installation site address is obtained through said registration.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is

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provided with a location identification device capable of providing a signal containing address-related information, said method further comprising the step of receiving the signal in order to obtain the installation site address.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is provided with an embedded mechanism capable of providing a message indicative of the installation site address over the communications network, said method further comprising the step of obtaining the message in order to obtain the installation site address based on the obtained message.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is provided with an embedded mechanism capable of providing a message indicative of the identifiable information over the communications network, said method further comprising the step of obtaining the message in order to obtain the identifiable information based on the obtained message.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is connected to an equipment, and wherein the installation site address of the factory automation product is searched based on the connected equipment.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is associated with a Uniform Resource Locator in the communication network, said method further comprising the step of identifying the installation site address of the factory automation product based on the Uniform Resource Locator.

20. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring a factory automation product over a communications network, wherein the factory automation product includes identifiable information associated therewith, and wherein the factory automation product is installed at an installation site having an installation site address, said system comprising:
a search mechanism for searching the communications network for the installation site address by a monitoring mechanism;

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means for providing data indicative the identifiable information; and
means, responsive to the data, for associating the installation site address to the
factory automation product based on the provided identifiable information.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the search mechanism comprises a physical site locator.
22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the factory automation device has an embedded device for aiding the search mechanism in searching the installation site address.
23. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:
a database for storing the identifiable information, and
means, based on the stored identifiable information, for searching over the
communications network for an additional unit of the factory automation product which
is used in violation of a product license.
24. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:
a database for storing the installation site address, and
means, based on the installation site address, for searching over the
communications network for an additional unit of the factory automation product, which
is used in violation of a product license.
25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the communications network includes the Internet and the searching means includes a web search device.
26. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising means for notify a user of the
factory automation product of safety or quality issues using the installation site address
27. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein further information is provided when the
factory automation product is registered, said associating means further associating the

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factory automation product based on the further information.

28. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising means for determining whether the factory automation product is used in violation of licenses based on the installation site address.